

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

Please amend this application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1-2, 4, and 21 as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~striketrough~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). Please cancel claims 17-22. A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers is set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A soft highly absorbent tissue product comprising long paper making fibers, a surface active agent, and a ketene dimer sizing agent; and the watability of absorbent tissue product being equivalent to an absorbent tissue product of the same composition but not having the ketene dimer sizing agent therein.
2. (Currently Amended) The soft highly absorbent tissue product of claim 1, wherein the ~~A soft absorbent paper-tissue product comprising paper making fibers and~~ at least about 1 pound of a the ketene dimer sizing agent per ton of paper product, the tissue having an absorbency rate of less than about 10 seconds.
3. (Previously Presented) The paper product of claim 2 in which the product comprises three layers.
4. (Currently Amended) A soft absorbent tissue sheet comprising: a first layer and a second layer; the first layer comprising predominately long paper making fibers and the second layer comprising predominantly short paper making fibers; at least one of the layers further comprising a ketene dimer sizing agent and a surface active agent; and the layer comprising the ketene dimer and surface active agent being wetable by water; wherein the watability of the absorbent tissue is equivalent to an absorbent tissue of the same composition but not having the ketene dimer sizing agent therein.
5. (Previously Presented) The soft tissue sheet of claim 4, in which the sheet is creped.

6. (Previously Presented) The soft tissue sheet of claim 4, in which the sheet is through dried.

7. (Previously Presented) The soft tissue sheet of claim 4, in which the absorbency rate is less than about 10 seconds.

8. (Previously Presented) The tissue of claim 4 in which the tissue sheet comprises a third layer.

9. (Previously Presented) An absorbent paper sheet having improved softness comprising: a first sheet surface and a second sheet surface; a layer comprising paper making fibers; the layer having a surface; the surface of the layer corresponding to a surface of the paper sheet; the surface of the layer having a ketene dimer sizing agent therein; the surface of the sheet having a surface active agent therein; and the watability of the sheet being equivalent to a sheet of the same composition but not having the ketene dimer sizing agent therein.

10. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 9, in which the sheet is a bath tissue.

11. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 10, in which the bath tissue has a second layer comprising paper making fibers.

12. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 9, in which the sheet is a towel product.

13. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 12, in which the towel product has a second layer comprising paper making fibers.

14. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 9, in which the sheet is a facial tissue.

15. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 14, in which the facial tissue has a second layer comprising paper making fibers.

16. (Previously Presented) The paper sheet of claim 9 comprising a second and a third layer; and the surface of the third layer corresponding to the second sheet surface.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A soft highly absorbent paper product comprising a blended base sheet, a ketene dimer sizing agent, and a surface active agent; wherein the wettability of the sheet is equivalent to a sheet of the same composition but not having the ketene dimer sizing agent therein.

22. (Previously Presented) The soft highly absorbent paper product of claim 21, in which there are at least 1 ½ pounds of the sizing agent per ton of paper product, and the product has a water absorbency rate of less than 10 seconds.